

NOMINATION FOR AWARD		
AWARD Director's Excellence Award for Community Relations	CATEGORY (If Applicable) Community Relations	AWARD PERIOD Jan 2002-Dec 2002
RANK/NAME OF NOMINEE (First, Middle Initial, Last) 377 Air Base Wing Public Affairs Office	SSN (Enter Last 4 Only)	MAJCOM, FOA, OR DRU Air Force Materiel Command
DAFSC/DUTY TITLE	NOMINEE'S TELEPHONE (DSN & Commercial) DSN: 246-6338, COM: (505) 846-6338	
UNIT/OFFICE SYMBOL/STREET ADDRESS/BASE/STATE/ZIP CODE 377 ABW/PAC, 2000 Wyoming Blvd, SE, Kirtland AFB NM 87117		
RANK/NAME OF UNIT COMMANDER (First, Middle Initial, Last)/COMMANDER'S TELEPHONE (DSN & Commercial) Col. Kathleen D. Close, DSN: 246-7377, COM: (505) 846-7377		
SPECIFIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS (Use single-spaced, bullet format)		
<p>Overall Effectiveness of Program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - "Bringing communities into our world" is driving theme of the 377 ABW's Good Neighbor Goals for community relation initiatives that incorporate all TEAM KIRTLAND organizations - More than 30 base-wide tours educated groups of students, local business and civic leaders <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- 34 civilian honorary commanders matched with base commanders for intense orientation and educational visitation program showcasing all major base organizations and various missions - Senior leadership of the 377 ABW gave 28 speeches (20 by 377 ABW/CC) to community organizations in 2002 using speeches written by PA office that were tailored to educate and inform - PA Director actively involved as advisor to newly built New Mexico Veterans Memorial <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- Coordinated military support for largest Veterans Day, Memorial Day, and POW/MIA ceremonies in the state of New Mexico - Established Kirtland AFB volunteer clearing house by hiring a full-time executive director <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- 377 ABW doubled its mentors from 41 to 83 helping the Albuquerque Public School Systems -- Expanded mentors to Big Brothers Big Sisters and Wise Men Wise Women Organizations - 377 ABW hosted five Community Outreach meetings since June 2001 to bring together minority organizations and women from local communities as partners to improve employment opportunities - Kirtland AFB and City of Albuquerque sponsored July 4th celebration on the base realizing more than 100,000 attendees from communities and more than 35 vendors who participated - Investigated and closed 42 noise complaint cases and four Congressional Inquiries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- Obtained relief from low-flying aircraft for three small business owners in rural parts of New Mexico where livelihoods depended on entertaining tourists safely while sponsoring horseback rides -- Same quality of student training were realized when aircraft missions were negotiated elsewhere - Two Career Days showcased job opportunities to 1,000+ high school students from 17 schools <p>Research Planning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - "Being a Good Neighbor" incorporated as major goal in Wing Strategic Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- Specific objectives established to expand military/civilian recruitment, increase volunteerism, improve community relations - Wing/CC and PA cochaired committee - Formed ad hoc team and overhauled the base's Honorary Commanders program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- Formulated program process to include from five to 13 major units on base to sponsor tours advancing breadth of base organizations' missions to civic and business leaders in local communities -- Developed and executed detailed survey to all honorary commanders at year's end to adjust honorary commanders program process - minimal adjustments to overall program were required <p>Program Execution and Evaluation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Solved a five-month case involving 80 residences in a class-action complaint against Kirtland AFB regarding C-130 aircrew training in their subdivision - Tierra Grande Subdivision <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- Developed strategy to interact directly with board of directors of subdivision through formal and intimate meetings avoiding town hall meetings and gained their support for continued AF training - Complete overhaul of the Kirtland AFB public website and established employment, small business, and cultural heritage web sites meeting "Good Neighbor" objectives per the Wing Strategic Plan <p>Innovativeness of Program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - "Join-A-School" partnership program between Kirtland AFB and Albuquerque Public Schools placed 24 "at-risk" students in work sites enhancing students' abilities and knowledge and emphasized life-skills enforcing the importance of completing their education - parents of students participated - The 377th ABW's Fire Department with Albuquerque Fire Department sponsored Feed the Needy program - collected and distributed toys, provided hot holiday meals to 500+ homeless people - Hosted Marsville science program sponsored for 62 schools incorporating 124 teachers and 2,160 students taking part in this all-day, hands-on, science event educating students on space exploration 		

NOMINATION FOR AWARD *(Continued)*

RANK/NAME OF NOMINEE *(First, Middle Initial, Last)*

377 Air Base Wing Public Affairs Office

SPECIFIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS *(Use single-spaced, bullet format) (Continued)*

Primary Contributors

Mitch Chandran, 377 ABW Chief, Community Relations

Gerald Mora, Ronda Cole, Marla Griego, Raina Pellegrino: AFRL's Education Outreach office and Marsville program

Lt. Col. Gloria Twilley, project officer for July Fourth celebration.

Col. Kathy Jones, project officer for minority outreach program

Rav Nicholson, project officer for Kirtland volunteer program

1Lt. Nick Sabula, Chief of Internal Information and project officer for website restructuring

SMSGt. Deborah Blaser, 58th SOW First Sergeant and project officer for Kirtland Career Days